

## Durham Research Online

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**Estranged  
Students:**  
(Widening)  
Participation  
Postcards



# Estranged Students: (Widening) Participation Postcards

Our 'Estranged Students' project aims to understand the challenges faced by estranged students. Funded by the Carnegie Trust and the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE), work is already informing policy, to ensure these students feel as 'at home' and connected as their classmates.

Our research found experiences of homelessness and financial hardship. Many interviewees felt unable to socialize with other students, fearing questions on,

'What does your family do?',  
'Do you have siblings?',  
'Are your parents visiting you?'

To be on the outside of typical family experience can be isolating, lonely and stigmatising.

Estranged students are now being recognized as a new category of 'widening participation', in admissions policies, and in UCAS entry forms.

This is just one important way forward, and we urge more action on targeting isolation, stigma and a lack of resources.

Being careful not to assume all students have families may make estranged students feel more seen and supported.

The following postcard messages were produced in our various workshops, conferences and seminars and are intended as training, support and information resources.

Read our illustrated guide here:

<https://pureportal.strath.ac.uk/en/publications/estranged-students-illustrating-the-issues>

Play our 'Estrangement Challenge' board game here:

[https://pure.strath.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/90590639/Taylor\\_et al\\_2019\\_The\\_estrangement\\_challenge.pdf](https://pure.strath.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/90590639/Taylor_et al_2019_The_estrangement_challenge.pdf)

Read our publications here:

Costa, C., Taylor, Y., Ecochard, S., & Goodfellow, C. (2019) 'Estranged students in higher education: navigating social and economic capitals.'

Cambridge Journal of Education 50: 107–123.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0305764X.2019.1648639>







POSTCARD

DEAR STUDENTS,  
YOU ARE NOT ALONE. YOU ARE PART  
OF A LARGER GROUP WITH A MASSIVE  
VOICE. NEVER BE AFRAID TO LET YOUR  
VOICE BE HEARD. THE VOICE OF THE  
MANY WILL INFLUENCE AND ENCOURAGE  
THE FEW, TO LISTEN AND TO SUPPORT  
YOU. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS MAKE  
YOURSELF HEARD.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



POSTCARD

DEAR STUDENT,  
DO YOU SOMETIMES FEEL  
UNIVERSITY IS A STRANGE SPACE?  
ME TOO! KNOW THAT MY STUDENTS  
AND STAFF EXPERIENCE A LESS  
THAN STRAIGHTFORWARD ROUTE  
THROUGH UNIVERSITY. YOU ARE  
ENTITLED TO BE HERE, UNIVERSITY  
IS FOR YOU, ACCESS THE SUPPORTS  
OUT THERE AND FEEL ENTITLED TO  
IT. BE IN TOUCH WITH WP TEAMS,  
STUDENT UNIONS AND TUTORS.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



POSTCARD

DEAR STUDENT,  
IT WILL BE OKAY, JUST HANG ON IN  
THERE. FILL YOUR TIME BEING  
PRODUCTIVE, DO ONE LITTLE THING  
AT A TIME. DON'T BE TOO HARD ON  
YOURSELF. THERE'S A REALLY GOOD  
BOOK ENTITLED, "THE HIERARCHY OF  
NEEDS", WHERE YOU CAN REFLECT  
ON THE THINGS YOU DO NEED AND  
DON'T. NOT EVERYTHING YOU LOSE IS  
A LOSS. GIVE IT A TRY : )

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE





POSTCARD

DEAR WIDENING PARTICIPATION TEAM,  
THINK ABOUT ESTRANGEMENT AS  
A CONTINUUM WHICH IS DYNAMIC AND  
FLUID AND CAN CHANGE OVER TIME,  
NOT JUST A BINARY EVENT.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR STUDENT,  
YOUR UNIVERSITY DEGREE IS A  
LONG, HARD ROAD TO PURSUE ON  
YOUR OWN, BUT ONCE UNI BEGINS  
YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE. YOU  
ARE GUARANTEED TO MEET NEW  
FRIENDS ALONG THE WAY WHO  
WILL HELP YOU TO ACHIEVE  
ANYTHING YOU SET OUT TO DO,  
AND THE UNIVERSITY HAS A HUGE  
RANGE OF SUPPORT AND  
RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU IF  
YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.



POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
KEEP DOING ALL THE GREAT WORK  
IN SUPPORTING ESTRANGED  
STUDENTS AND DEVELOPING  
NEW INITIATIVES TO MAKE  
THEIR LIVES EASIER AND MORE  
CONNECTED TO OTHERS.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
MAKE ACCOMMODATION AFFORDABLE  
AS A WAY OF GIVING STABILITY TO  
STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE  
ANYWHERE ELSE TO STAY  
(AND OUTSIDE THE TEACHING PERIOD).

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE





POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
ESTRANGEMENT MIGHT BE A MOVING  
IDENTITY RATHER THAN A FIXED  
ONE. THERE ARE NO TWO  
EXPERIENCES THAT ARE THE SAME.



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
NO ONE SOLUTION WILL WORK  
FOR EVERYONE, BUT HAVING  
MANY SUPPORT MECHANISMS IN  
PLACE CAN HELP CATCH MOST  
PEOPLE WHO FEEL ESTRANGED.  
MONEY, EMOTIONAL &  
ACCOMMODATION HELP WOULD  
BE MY TOP 3 SUPPORTS THAT  
NEED TO BE IN PLACE.



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
REMINDESTRANGED STUDENTS THAT  
THEY'RE NOT ALONE AND TACKLE  
ISOLATION AND STIGMA.  
ESTRANGEMENT IS NOT JUST  
BETWEEN A PARENT AND CHILD.  
THINK ABOUT USING 'INDEPENDENT  
STUDENTS' INSTEAD OF 'ESTRANGED'.



## POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY, AND LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES, AND GOVERNMENT,  
I THINK FOR ALL ESTRANGED  
STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO GET THE FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT THAT THEY SO NEED TO ENABLE  
THEM TO NOT FEEL THE PRESSURE DURING  
THEIR STUDIES - IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU  
WORK TOGETHER. PROVIDING FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND  
OFFERING A HEAVILY REDUCED ACCOMMODATION  
FEE COULD ELIMINATE THE POTENTIAL RISK OF  
HOMELESSNESS, WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THEM.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE





POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF LECTURERS  
AND SUPPORT STAFF KNEW MORE  
ABOUT ESTRANGEMENT. MAKE IT  
EASIER FOR STUDENTS TO DISCLOSE.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT  
ESTRANGED STUDENTS. WE  
SHOULD HAVE THE SAME  
OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A GOOD  
LIFE FOR OURSELVES TOO.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
PLEASE ADVOCATE FOR ESTRANGED  
STUDENTS TO GET APPROPRIATE  
THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT TO HELP WITH  
THE EMOTIONAL IMPACT OF  
ESTRANGEMENT.

PLACE  
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## POSTCARD

PLACE  
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HERE

DEAR STUDENT,  
THIS CARD IS TO BRING YOU A WEE  
MESSAGE OF SUPPORT. IT MAY NOT ALWAYS FEEL  
LIKE IT, BUT YOU ARE DOING AMAZINGLY WELL.  
YOU'VE MADE IT TO UNIVERSITY, YOU ARE  
INDEPENDENT AND YOU ARE CAPABLE OF  
INCREDIBLE THINGS! YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WILL  
HAVE BEEN TOUGH AND WE ADMIRE YOUR  
STRENGTH. AS A UNIVERSITY, WE WANT TO  
SUPPORT YOU ALONG THE REST OF YOUR JOURNEY.  
IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU NEED, THE WIDENING  
ACCESS TEAM CAN HELP, AS CAN THE WELLBEING  
SERVICES AND FINANCIAL SERVICES.





POSTCARD

DEAR STUDENT,  
I KNOW IT CAN BE EMBARRASSING  
AND DAUNTING, BUT YOU ARE NOT  
ALONE AND THE UNIVERSITY WILL  
SUPPORT YOU.

PLACE  
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POSTCARD

PLACE  
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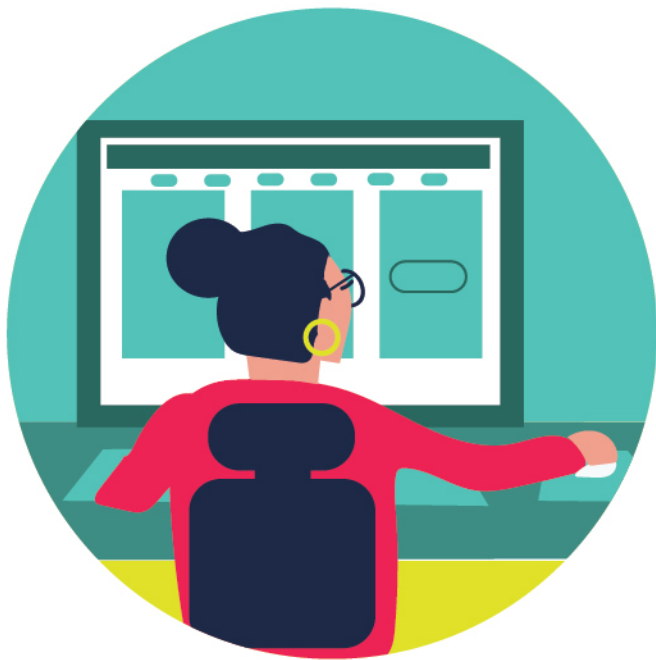
DEAR STUDENT,  
IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW YOU ARE  
NOT ALONE. YOU CAN'T HANDLE  
EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN, ASK  
FOR HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT.  
MAKE TIME FOR FRIENDS  
AMONGST THE STUDYING.



POSTCARD

DEAR STUDENT,  
I WOULD LIKE TO WRITE, THAT BEING  
AN ESTRANGED STUDENT IS NOTHING  
TO BE ASHAMED OF AND IT'S JUST A  
PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCE. I WISH YOU  
A LOT OF STRENGTH AND POSITIVE  
ENERGY TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAM AND  
GET THE DEGREE YOU WISH.

PLACE  
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HERE



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
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DEAR STUDENT,  
FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO SAY THAT  
YOU'RE STRONG AND LOVED IN THE  
AFTERMATH OF WHAT YOU'VE GONE  
THROUGH. SECONDLY, I RECOMMEND  
GOING TO THE ADVICE HUB OR THE  
STUDENT UNION, OR TRY AND SEEK  
OUT ANY SECONDARY HELP TO GIVE  
YOURSELF THE SUPPORT YOU NEED.  
IT'S ALL GOING TO BE OK.





POSTCARD

DEAR STUDENT,  
YOU ARE NOT ALONE. ESTRANGEMENT IS  
MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
PLEASE WIDEN AWARENESS OF  
WHAT BEING ESTRANGED ACTUALLY  
DOES AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO  
HELP. IF YOU WANT THINGS TO  
CHANGE, YOU CAN'T ONLY TARGET  
THIS INFO TO THE 'OPEN'  
ESTRANGED STUDENTS.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
THANK YOU FOR BEING SUPPORTIVE,  
AND GIVING US A CHANCE TO BE  
EDUCATED AND QUALIFIED DESPITE  
THE HARD TIME WE'RE HAVING.  
IT'S BEEN A GREAT JOURNEY AND  
THANKS FOR SHAPING US INTO A  
BETTER PERSON.

POSTCARD

PLACE  
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HERE



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME,  
EFFORT AND CONCERN FOR REACHING  
OUT TO US. IT'S A GREAT GESTURE  
THAT DEFINITELY WILL GO A LONG WAY.  
YOU'RE KEEPING US POSITIVE, AND  
KNOWING FAMILY DOESN'T NEED TO BE  
RELATED. YOU GUYS ARE AMAZING. <3

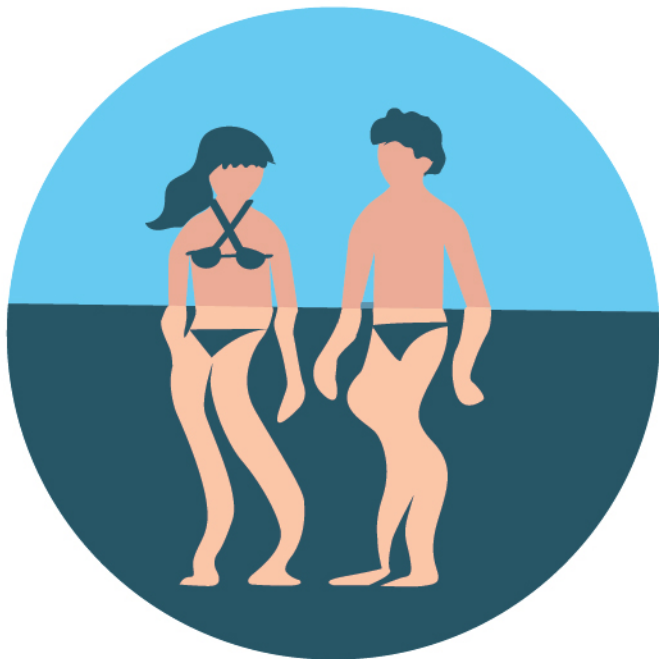




POSTCARD

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DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
TODAY WE HAVE BEEN EXPLORING THE  
COMPLEXITIES OF DEFINING ESTRANGEMENT'  
AND REALISE THAT WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO  
DO THIS IN A SATISFACTORY WAY.  
HOW CAN WE ENSURE THAT WE MAINTAIN  
MOMENTUM? PERHAPS CRITERIA IS USEFUL  
FOR FUNDING (AS LONG AS WE CAN HAVE A  
DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY) BUT CAN WE AGREE  
THAT WE DON'T JUST OFFER AN OPEN DOOR  
BUT WE GO OUTSIDE OF THE ROOM AND  
ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO COME IN AND TALK  
TO US AND TO EACH OTHER - THERE ARE  
MANY THINGS WE CAN OFFER.



POSTCARD

DEAR POLICY MAKERS,  
ESTRANGEMENT IS DIFFERENT FOR  
EACH PERSON, AS CAN FAMILY BE. BE  
MORE FLEXIBLE IN YOUR CATEGORIES.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



DEAR WIDENING PARTICIPATION TEAM,  
ESTRANGED STUDENTS (HOWEVER  
DEFINED), INDICATE PASTORAL AND  
PRACTICAL SUPPORT / GUIDANCE AS  
A VARIABLE AND SPECIALIST  
VOCATION. WHERE ESTRANGEMENT  
SPEAKS OF RELATIONAL TRAUMA AND  
INSTABILITY, THEN A CONSISTENT,  
CLEAR AND RELIABLE POINT OF  
OPTIONAL CONTACT BECOMES  
HIGHLY RELEVANT.

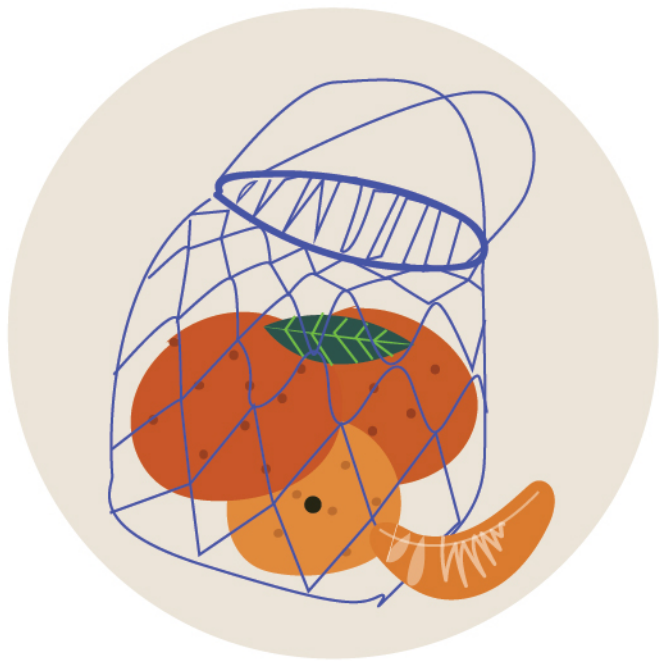
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POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
PLEASE MAKE US FEEL WELCOME!  
PLEASE LOOK AT US LIKE HUMAN  
BEINGS. PLEASE RELAX : )

PLACE  
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POSTCARD

PLACE  
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DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
STUDENTS WHO ARE ESTRANGED  
FROM THEIR FAMILIES NEED  
OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATE THEIR  
OWN SAFETY NETS. THESE  
SAFETY NETS ARE CRUCIAL FOR  
THEIR GRADUATE DECISION  
MAKING AND DECISION TAKING.  
YOU CAN HELP THEM BY  
PROVIDING FINANCIAL AND  
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND  
CREATE THE THREADS OF  
THE SAFETY NET.



POSTCARD

DEAR WIDENING  
PARTICIPATION TEAM,  
CAN YOU PLEASE HELP US  
COMMUNICATE WITH ALL THE  
STUDENTS THAT MAY NEED  
OUR SUPPORT.

PLACE  
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POSTCARD

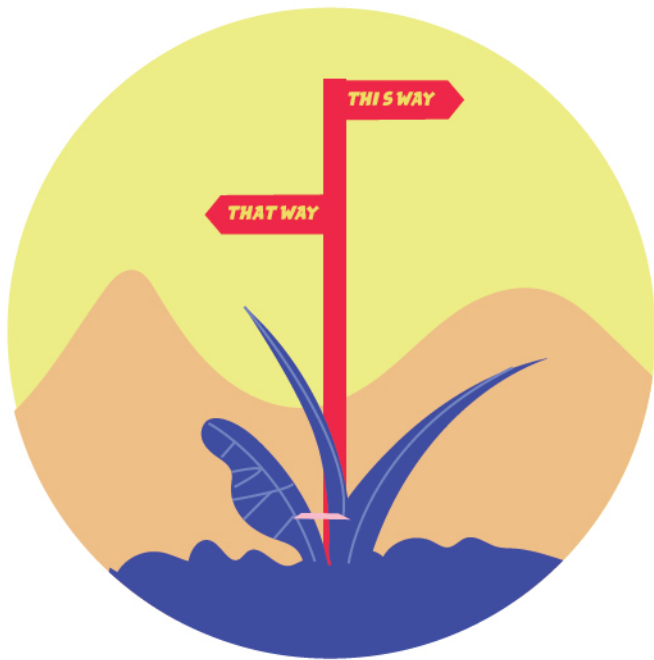
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DEAR UNIVERSITY,

STAND ALONE PLEDGE

-----  
12 MONTH ACCOMMODATION

-----  
POSSIBILITY OF SELF IDENTIFYING AT  
REGISTRATION / MATRICULATION EACH  
YEAR SO INFORMATION CAN BE SENT  
(NOT PESTERING THE STUDENT).



POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
PLEASE COULD YOU SET A TARGET  
FOR WHEN AND HOW TO COMMIT TO  
THE STAND ALONE PLEDGE.  
THANKS : )

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POSTCARD

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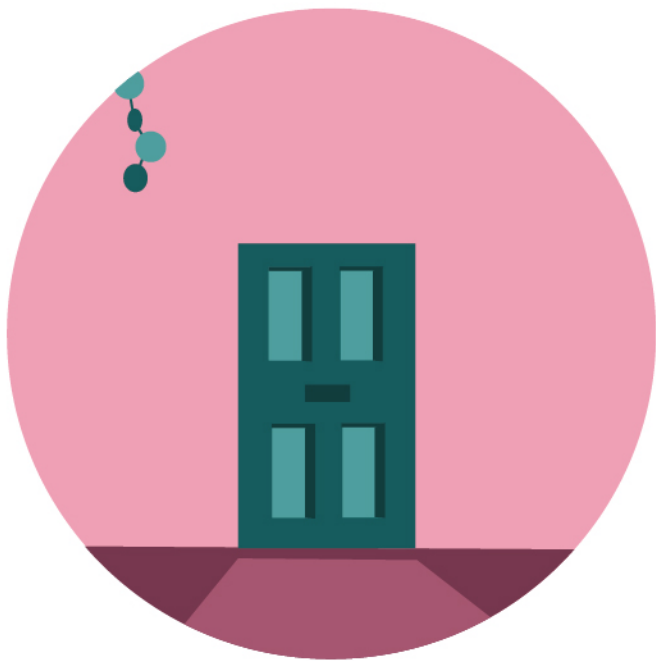
DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
CAN WE PLEASE REVIEW OUR  
CRITERIA FOR HARDSHIP FUNDS  
FOR ESTRANGED STUDENTS, AS  
THERE'S STRICT CRITERIA FOR  
ADDITIONAL FUNDING.



POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
INVEST IN THERAPY AND  
COUNSELLING SERVICES, AS THIS  
WAS THE SUPPORT SERVICE MOST  
ACCESSED BY ESTRANGED STUDENTS  
IN THE HIDDEN VOICES SURVEY.

PLACE  
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POSTCARD

PLACE  
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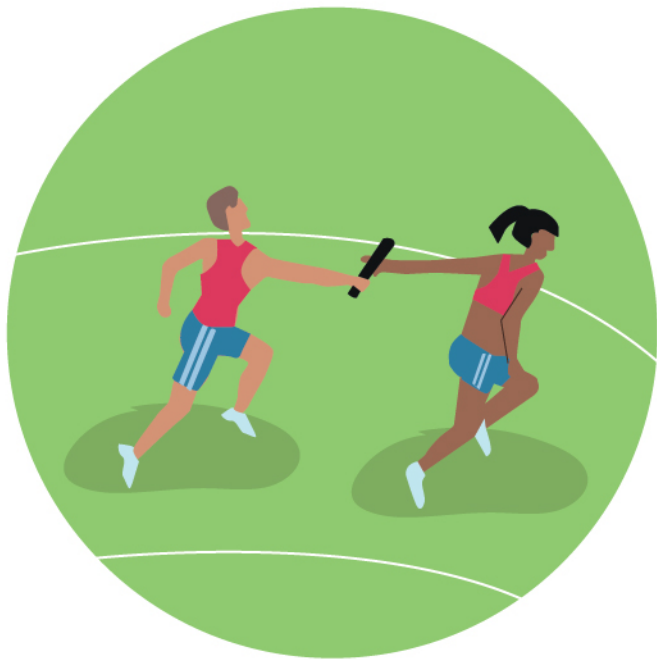
DEAR STUDENT,  
DON'T BE AFRAID TO SEEK OUT  
SUPPORT. FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL  
FIGHT YOUR CORNER; STUDENT  
PRESIDENT, MSP, CITIZEN'S ADVICE,  
ADVOCATES. DON'T SUFFER IN  
SILENCE, KNOCK ON DOORS AND  
MAKE YOUR CHALLENGES KNOWN. THE  
SUPPORT STILL ISN'T WHAT IT NEEDS  
TO BE, BUT UNIS STILL HAVE A  
RESPONSIBILITY TO YOU!



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR WIDENING PARTICIPATION TEAM,  
REMEMBER THAT EACH STUDENT  
EXPERIENCE IS DIFFERENT. REMIND  
YOURSELF THAT SOMETHING THAT  
CAN BE HELPFUL / SUPPORTIVE TO  
ONE STUDENT, MIGHT NOT BE TO  
ANOTHER. APPRECIATE THE COURAGE  
IT TAKES FOR SOMEONE TO SHARE  
THEIR STORY. NEVER STOP  
ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE.





POSTCARD

PLACE  
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HERE

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
SIGNING THE STAND ALONE PLEDGE  
IS IMPORTANT, BUT ENSURING THAT  
YOUR SUPPORT DEVELOPS AND  
CONTINUES TO IMPROVE WITH YOUR  
ESTRANGED STUDENTS IN MIND IS  
VITAL! LET THE WHOLE INSTITUTION  
WORK TOGETHER. : )

1	men
2	den
3	men
4	men

**POSTCARD**

**PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE**

**DEAR WIDENING PARTICIPATION TEAM,  
AND STUDENT SERVICES / SUPPORT,  
HAVE NAMED CONTACTS FOR SUPPORT /  
ADVICE PRE AND POST ENTRY.  
OPERATE CONTEXTUALISED ADMISSIONS!**



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR WIDENING PARTICIPATION TEAM,  
TODAY I HAVE LEARNT ABOUT THE  
EXPERIENCES OF ESTRANGED STUDENTS  
AND THEIR BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN  
HIGHER EDUCATION. IT UPSET ME TO LEARN  
THAT FOR MANY, FINANCIAL BARRIERS WERE  
A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THEM. ON TOP OF  
THAT, INSTITUTIONS FOLLOWING UNREALISTIC  
CRITERIA OF ESTRANGEMENT ENFORCED WITH  
A MONITORING OF VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS  
THAT DISCOURAGES REBUILDING OF FAMILY  
RELATIONSHIPS IS SHOCKING. PLEASE DO  
ALL YOU CAN TO HELP NAVIGATE  
THESE CHALLENGES.



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR STUDENT,  
PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THERE  
WILL BE STAFF TO SUPPORT YOU IN  
ANY WAY THAT YOU NEED. IF YOU HAVE  
A PROBLEM RELATED TO YOUR  
FINANCES, ACCOMMODATION, OR  
ANYTHING ELSE, DO TRY TO FIND  
SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP YOU.





POSTCARD

DEAR SAAS,  
PLEASE MAKE YOUR SYSTEMS MORE  
USER FRIENDLY AND TRANSPARENT.

PLACE  
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POSTCARD

DEAR LECTURERS / TEACHERS,  
PLEASE DO NOT ASSUME THAT  
STUDENTS HAVE FAMILY SUPPORT, OR  
CARERS WHO PROVIDE THEM WITH  
SUPPORT.

PLACE  
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POSTCARD

DEAR UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE,  
PLEASE PROVIDE A DEDICATED POINT OF  
CONTACT WHO WILL COMMUNICATE WITH  
ME AND SUPPORT ME THROUGH MY  
STUDIES.

PLACE  
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POSTCARD

PLACE  
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DEAR STUDENT,  
I HAVE LEARNED TODAY THAT  
ESTRANGEMENT IS A COMPLEX  
SITUATION AND CAN SEE WHY IT IS  
DIFFICULT TO CATEGORISE PEOPLE WITH  
A VIEW TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.  
I TOTALLY AGREE THAT A FAMILY  
SITUATION / UNIT SHOULD BE A POSITIVE  
EXPERIENCE FOR ALL. I HOPE YOU CAN  
FIND A POSITIVE NOTE ON YOUR  
JOURNEY. ONCE YOU REACH YOUR  
DESTINATION YOU KNOW WHERE YOU  
WANT TO BE, WHAT YOU WANT TO HAVE,  
AND ACHIEVE.





POSTCARD

DEAR STUDENT,  
I DON'T CLAIM TO UNDERSTAND  
WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH OR  
ARE GOING THROUGH. I CAN'T  
REALLY KNOW HOW YOU FEEL OR  
HAVE EXPERIENCE OF THE TRIALS  
THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH. BUT  
I DO PROMISE TO BELIEVE WHAT  
YOU TELL ME AND TRY TO HELP YOU  
AS MUCH AS I CAN, EVEN IF IT JUST  
TO LISTEN. DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN!  
(SENIOR ADVISER OF STUDIES).

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY

17<sup>TH</sup>

POSTCARD

DEAR WIDENING PARTICIPATION TEAM,  
PLEASE COULD YOU ARRANGE AND SET  
A DATE FOR IN-HOUSE TRAINING AND  
HOW TO BEST PUBLICIZE AVAILABLE  
SUPPORT FOR ESTRANGED STUDENTS,  
AND TRAIN STAFF TO RECOGNISE  
MULTIFARIOUS FORMS OF  
ESTRANGEMENT WHEN OFFERING  
ADVICE. : )

PLACE  
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HERE



POSTCARD

DEAR FAIR ACCESS,  
PLEASE ADVERTISE YOUR EVENTS IN A  
WAY THAT WILL MAKE ME FEEL MORE  
LIKE I HAVE A PLACE IN THAT  
ACTIVITY. PLEASE MAKE IT EASIER  
FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT  
SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME  
IF I ATTEND THIS INSTITUTION.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



POSTCARD

PLACE  
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DEAR STUDENT,  
THE WELFARE TEAM ARE ALWAYS  
HERE TO SUPPORT YOU THROUGH  
YOUR JOURNEY, IN MANY WAY, IF YOU  
ARE FEELING OVERWHELMED PLEASE  
DON'T HESITATE TO COME TO THE  
OFFICE AND SEEK ASSISTANCE, AND  
BE REASSURED THAT NO MATTER  
WHAT, WE AIM TO HELP AND ASSIST  
YOU IN CONFIDENCE.

THE WELFARE TEAM.





POSTCARD

PLACE  
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DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
PLEASE UNDERSTAND THE  
COMPLEXITIES OF ESTRANGEMENT  
WHEN SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENTS.  
THE STIGMA ATTACHED TO THIS IS  
CRITICAL AND AS SUCH, MANY WILL NOT  
COME FORWARD TO SEEK SUPPORT.  
ALSO, PLEASE SET UP GUARANTOR  
SCHEMES TO ALLOW ESTRANGED  
STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE A SENSE OF  
HOME AND SAFETY.



POSTCARD

DEAR STUDENT,  
WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING CLEAR  
ADVICE TO ESTRANGED STUDENTS. ENSURING  
THAT ANY BURSARIES, STREAMS OF FUNDING  
AND SUPPORT ARE COMMUNICATED TO  
ESTRANGED STUDENTS ON ENTRY. WE ARE  
ALSO COMMITTED TO CONSULTING ESTRANGED  
STUDENTS TO DISCUSS WHICH TERMINOLOGY  
AND WAYS OF ADVERTISING SUPPORT AND  
EVENTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

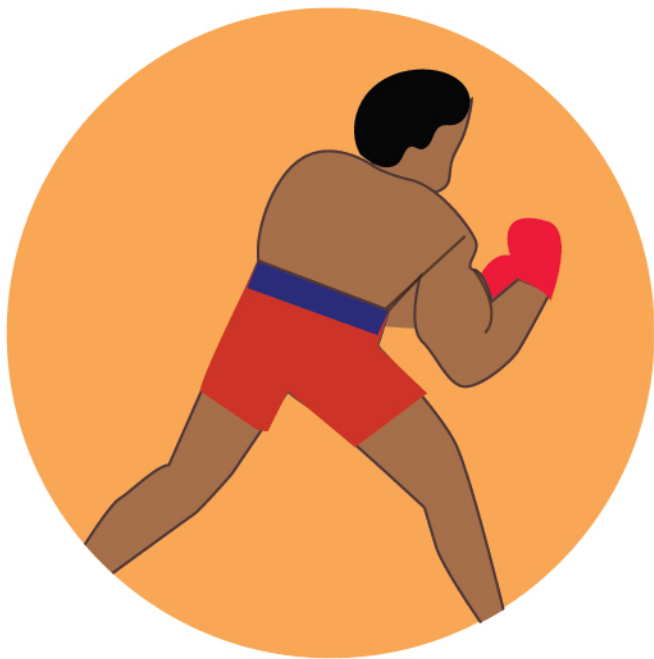
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## POSTCARD

PLACE  
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DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
THERE NEEDS TO BE MUCH MORE  
COMMUNICATION ABOUT ESTRANGEMENT  
BETWEEN TEACHERS, UNIVERSITIES, FUNDING  
BODIES AND THOSE AFFECTED BY  
ESTRANGEMENT. THE ONUS SHOULD NOT BE  
ON THE ESTRANGED STUDENT TO SEEK OUT  
HELP AND SUPPORT. IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY  
VISIBLE ON UNIVERSITY WEBSITES, FROM  
GUIDANCE TEACHERS AT SCHOOL AND FROM  
WELFARE ADVISORS AT UNIVERSITIES AND  
COLLEGES. AT PRESENT SO MUCH EMOTIONAL  
LABOUR IS BEING DONE BY ESTRANGED  
STUDENTS DUE TO THEIR LACK OF  
CORPORATE PARENTING. ESTRANGEMENT  
NEEDS TO BE SPOKEN ABOUT MUCH MORE.



POSTCARD

DEAR STUDENT,  
YOU HAVE COME THIS FAR, JUST  
KEEP PUNCHING.

PLACE  
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HERE

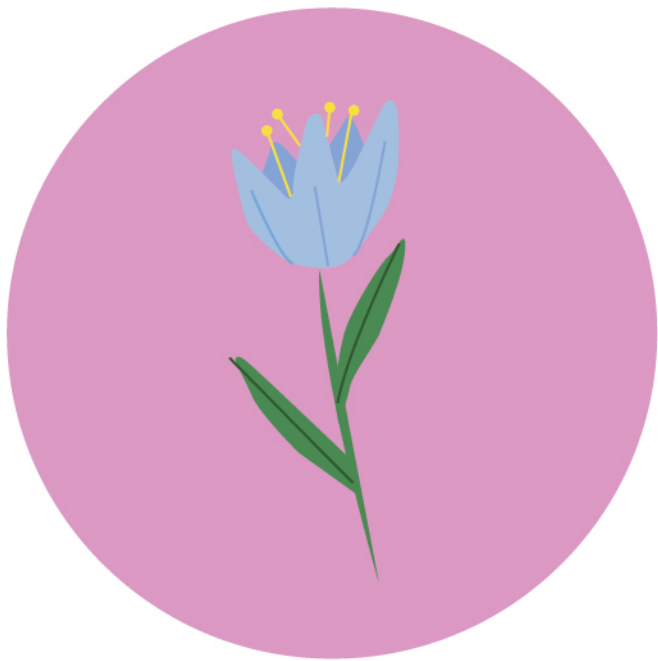




POSTCARD

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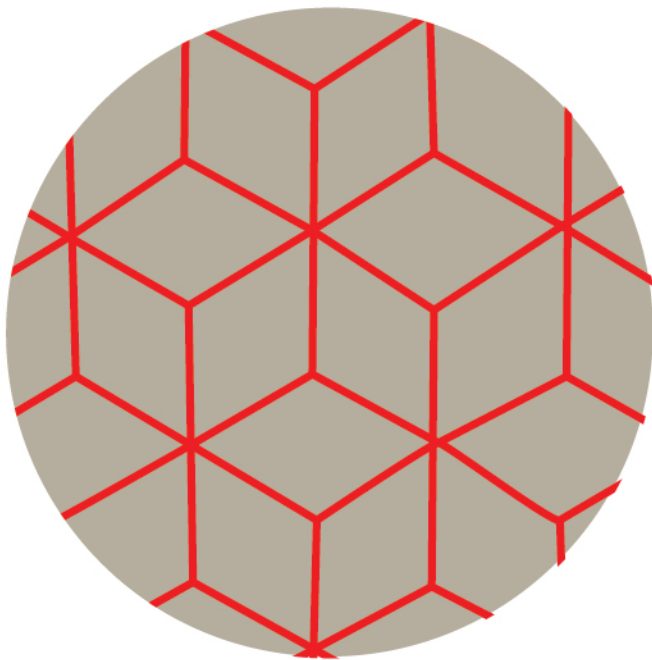
DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
PROVIDE WITH AFFORDABLE  
ACCOMMODATION AND GOOD  
NURSERY SERVICE.



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
THANK YOU FOR BEING SENSITIVE  
AND SUPPORTIVE TOWARDS MY  
PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IT  
MAKES MY TIME AT STRATHCLYDE  
FEEL MORE AT EASE, AND I'M  
THANKFUL FOR THE SUPPORT.



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
THINK ABOUT THE VARIOUS THREADS THAT  
ARE REQUIRED TO BUILD A ROBUST  
"SAFETY NET".  
EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS -  
NAMED CONTACT, CP, RELATIONSHIP  
FINANCIAL SUPPORTS -  
ACCOMMODATION, SPECIFIC FUNDS  
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS-  
INCREASING AWARENESS ACROSS THE  
BOARD, SUPPORT TO LEARN IN OTHER WAYS.  
PRACTICAL SUPPORTS-  
CONTINUOUS ACCOMMODATION, MOVING  
HOME, RELATIONSHIP BUILDING,  
TIME OFF -  
FOR RESPONSIBILITIES WE HAVE THAT  
OTHERS MAY NOT.

'ESTRANGED STUDENTS', SAMIA SINGH (DESIGNER), YVETTE TAYLOR (PI) AND CRISTINA COSTA (CO-I),  
FUNDED BY THE CARNEGIE TRUST AND THE SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION.



POSTCARD

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DEAR UNIVERSITY,  
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT.  
HOPE YOU KEEP UP THE WORK.  
: )





## **Estranged Students: (Widening) Participation Postcards**

These postcard messages were produced in our various workshops, conferences and seminars and are intended as training, support and information resources.

